

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968

1610/Casper RMP

October 20, 2003

RE: Invitation to Participate in the Preparation of the Casper Resource Management Plan

Dear Interested Party:

The Casper Field Office, Wyoming Bureau of Land Management, is currently revising the Platte River Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). As part of this project, a supporting environmental impact statement (EIS) is also being prepared.

The revised RMP, referred to as the Casper RMP, is being developed to provide future direction for managing approximately 1.4 million acres of public land and 4.7 million acres of federal mineral estate lands in east central Wyoming. The planning area includes most of Natrona County and all of Converse, Goshen, and Platte Counties, Wyoming. The BLM's Lander Field Office administers public land in the southwestern corner of Natrona County.

An integral part of developing the Casper RMP is public involvement. The Casper Field Office has scheduled four public scoping meetings at the times and locations shown below.

Meeting Site	Date	Facility	Time
Wheatland	November 10, 2003	Platte County Library Large Meeting Room 904 9th St. Wheatland, WY	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Torrington	November 11, 2003	Eastern Wyoming College CTC Building 3200 W. C St. Torrington, WY	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Douglas	November 12, 2003	Converse County Community Room 107 N. 5 th St. Douglas, WY	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Casper	November 13, 2003	BLM Casper Field Office 2987 Prospector Drive Casper, Wyoming	3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

These meetings were scheduled to provide an opportunity for you to comment on development of the Casper RMP and EIS. Along with presentations at 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and question and answer sessions, you will have an opportunity to visit one on one with BLM resource specialists about any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

A website has been developed for the Casper RMP located at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper. This website provides information and background on the RMP and EIS process as well as information on how you can participate in the planning process. The BLM has also prepared a Summary of the Management Situation Analysis. This summary provides information about existing resource conditions, current management practices, and issues and concerns identified to date. The summary, along with comments received during scoping, will be used to formulate alternatives and develop the draft EIS. The summary will be available for public review at this website beginning November 3, 2003.

Preliminary planning issues and criteria have been identified and will also be used to guide the identification and development of management alternatives. These preliminary issues and criteria are not final. They may be added to or refined during the public scoping process. The BLM is requesting your help in identifying additional issues and concerns, management alternatives, or other ideas to be addressed in the planning effort. For your convenience in commenting, a copy of the preliminary planning issues and criteria are enclosed along with a map of the planning area.

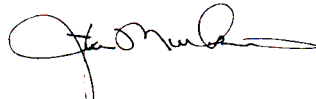
Throughout preparation of the Casper RMP and EIS, local interests and residents will have additional opportunities to participate and share their insights and comments. However, to ensure sufficient time to consider your comments in alternative formulation and preparation of the draft EIS, comments should be postmarked by November 20, 2003.

Written comments received during the public scoping process may be published as part of the environmental analysis process. After the close of the public scoping period, all comment letters received, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Casper Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday (except federal holidays). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals representing organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Comments on the preparation of the Casper RMP and EIS can be mailed to: Casper Field Office, BLM, 2987 Prospector Drive, Casper, WY 82604, or submitted electronically (beginning November 3rd) on the Casper RMP website at www.blm.gov/rmp/casper. Comment forms will also be available at the scoping meetings. In order to decrease the cost of entering written comments into our tracking database, we strongly encourage you to submit your comments electronically at our website.

We look forward to working with you in development of the Casper RMP. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Slone, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at the address shown above or at (307) 261-7600.

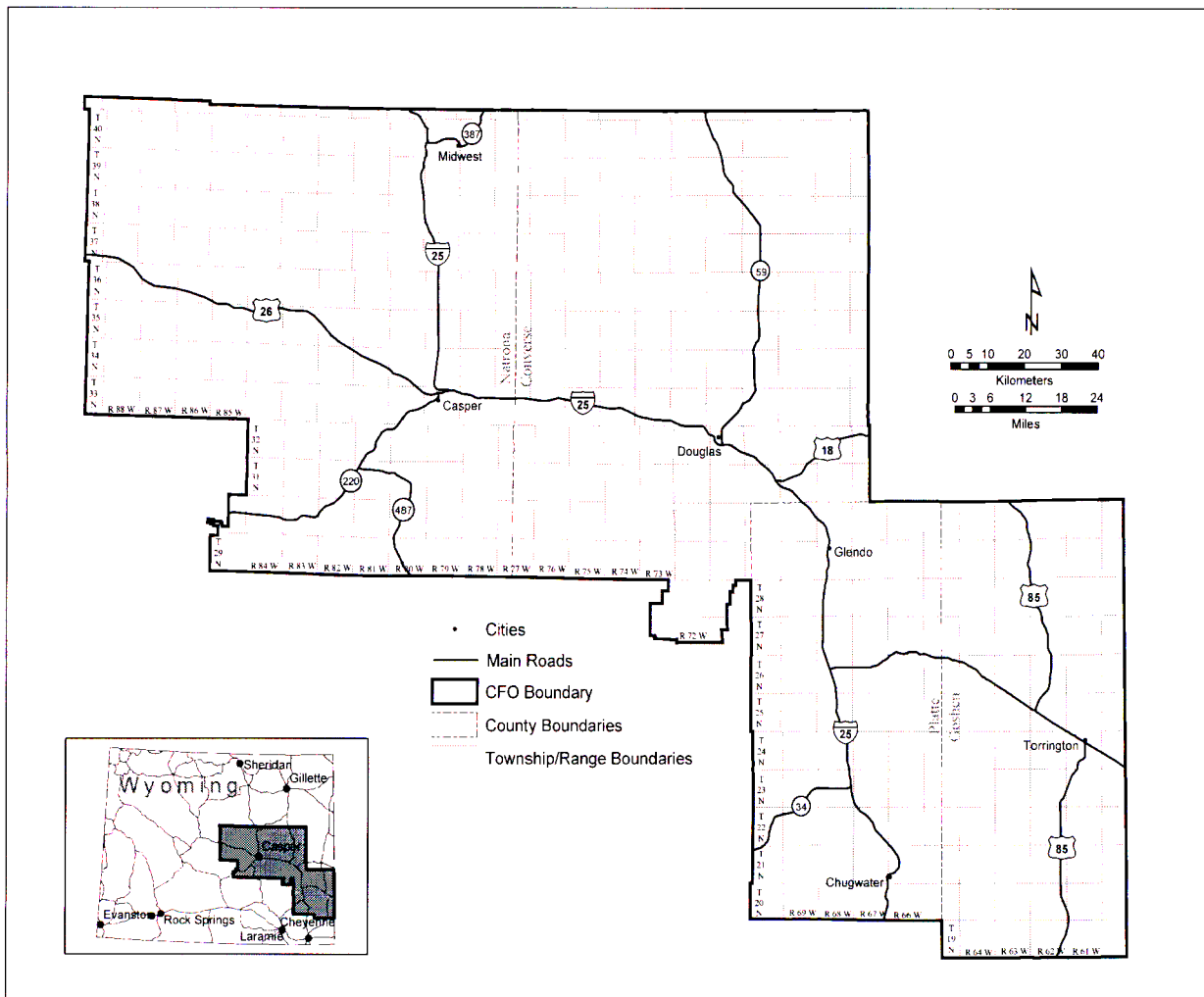
Sincerely,



Jim Murkin
Field Manager, Casper

Enclosures: Preliminary Planning Issues and Criteria
Planning Area Map

Casper Field Office Planning Area



**CASPER RMP
PRELIMINARY PLANNING ISSUES AND CRITERIA**

Preliminary Planning Issues

- A. Energy and mineral resource exploration and development;
- B. Access to and transportation on BLM lands;
- C. Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicle management;
- D. Wildlife habitat and management of crucial habitat and migration corridors;
- E. Management and cumulative effect of land uses and human activities on Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, and Sensitive species and their habitats;
- F. Vegetation, including impacts of invasive non-native species;
- G. Management of cultural and paleontological resources, including National Historic Trails;
- H. Land ownership adjustments;
- I. Fire management;
- J. Livestock grazing;
- K. Visual Resource Management; and,
- L. Air and water quality.

Preliminary Planning Criteria

- A. The revised RMP will recognize the existence of valid existing rights.
- B. The decisions in the revised RMP will cover BLM-administered public lands, including split-estate lands where the subsurface minerals are severed from the surface right, and the BLM has legal jurisdiction over one or the other.
- C. The BLM will use a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach to determine the desired future condition of public lands.
- D. The BLM will strive to ensure that its management decisions are complimentary to other planning jurisdictions and adjoining properties, within the boundaries described by law and regulation.
- E. The environmental analysis will consider a reasonable range of alternatives that focus on the relative values of resources and respond to the issues. Management prescriptions will reflect multiple use resource principles.
- F. The BLM will use current scientific information, research, new technologies, and the results of resource assessments, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or restore impaired ecosystems.
- G. Revised RMP decisions will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policy, and guidance.